



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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Date: January 20, 2012
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer
Subject: Meeting, January 26, 2012

Chair
Phil Isenberg

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Felicia Marcus
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli

Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

The agenda for our twenty-third meeting, and supporting material, is attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting. Unlike the majority of our two-day Council meetings, January's meeting will take place on only one day – Thursday, January 26, 2012.

Thursday's agenda will touch on many substantive topics including the Chair's Report, the Lead Scientist's Report and the Legal and Legislative Updates. During the Executive Officer's Report we will also have a report on the statewide EIR field hearings held during the month of January. And the Delta Independent Science Board will offer its report on a meeting that was held January 12-13, 2012.

Appointment of Lead Scientist (Agenda Item 7)

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires the Council to appoint a Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program after consultation with the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB). Dr. Peter Goodwin was recruited by the ISB as a Lead Scientist candidate to replace Dr. Cliff Dahm, whose term recently ended. Dr. Goodwin is the DeVlieg Presidential Professor of Civil Engineering and the founder of the Center for Ecohydraulics Research at the University of Idaho. He is recognized internationally for his research with particular contributions in the field of sedimentation and the impact of river management on ecosystems. Dr. Goodwin has participated in river restoration, flood control and sediment management projects in several different countries. He has also been involved in many estuarine and tidal wetland projects on the East and West Coasts of the U.S., and has been the project manager/principal investigator for several wetland enhancement studies.

Summary of Changes Leading to Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan (Agenda Item 9)

The Council, state and federal agencies, and stakeholders to date have reviewed and provided comments and direction for five staff drafts of the Delta Plan, resulting in hundreds of individual comment letters and thousands of specific comments. After the Feb. 2 close of the comment period for the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Council will review EIR comments as well as comments on fifth staff draft and discuss changes and direction to staff for a sixth draft to be released in March. The summary report being offered to the Council analyzes the evolution of the various drafts, based on the written record and has two goals: (a) an accurate

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

rendering of the main features of the staff draft Delta Plans and how they evolved over time; and (b) analysis of how the major themes expressed in comments on the five staff drafts were reflected in the development of the staff draft documents.

Framework for Review of Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) (Agenda Item 10)

The BDCP is a major project considering large-scale improvements in water conveyance and large-scale ecosystem restorations in the Delta under the state Natural Communities Planning Act and the federal Habitat Conservation Planning Act. When completed, and if it meets certain statutory requirements, it must be incorporated into the Delta Plan. The Delta Reform Act assigns three roles to the Council relative to the BDCP: 1) consult with the lead agency, the Department of Water Resources; 2) act as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act in development of the Environmental Impact Report; and 3) act as an appellate body for any appeal of the Department of Fish and Game's determination that the BDCP has met requirements spelled out in the Delta Reform Act. In addition, the Delta Reform Act requires the Delta Independent Science Board to review the draft EIR and submit its comments to the council and the Department of Fish and Game.

The January 26th meeting will once again be held in the legal Delta. It will be in the West Sacramento City Hall Galleria, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov

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